one better still. The last Pomare's realm was declared to include the Paumotus, the Marquesas and the Austral Islands, and the whole annexed.

Events followed their normal course. The shadow of power ever grew less. The Pomare family contented itself with alcohol and masquerade. Viaud found a queen who was addressed as ' Her Majesty' by ships' captains and visitors, who, so to speak, camped out in native fashion in a big European palace, and whose court of maidens danced and flirted and sang and drank the fleeting hours away. Loti of the romance was offered a [1] wife' by the Queen who had taken a fancy to him, it being carefully explained that the connection was only temporary* He lived in the shadow of the palace. He slept once in the 'king's* bedroom, His Majesty at the time being too drunk to hurt him. He talked with the Queen, and

realised clearly what she might have been. He drew a moving picture of the demoralisation of a race whom missionary and politician had condemned to death by inertia.

Yet that in itself is not the main interest of the book. The larger tragedy is repeated in minia-